

## **RFA POLICY ON PHOTOGRAPHS OF CHILDREN**

As the national governing body of the sport of Rugby Fives, the Rugby Fives Association ('RFA') issues the following policy statement on the taking and use of photographs of children (i.e. minors under the age of 18).

1. The official printed publications of the RFA, currently the Annual Fives Review; the two illustrated mid-season Fives Federation Newsletters; and the annual Pocket Book, are distributed to members of the RFA, and its affiliated clubs and schools. These publications record and report on the activities of Fives players of all ages and serve as an historical record of their activities in tournaments, matches and intra club/school games. Properly used, they can encourage and motivate children to participate in the sport by celebrating their achievements and providing role models. The official printed publications are supervised by editors approved by the RFA.

In view of the limited circulation of such publications, photographs of children may be published at the discretion of the responsible editor in a manner which does not identify individual children, their club/school and their ages (by virtue of the competitions in which they participate). The photographs used should be relevant to the story covered in the publication and should not be inappropriate in terms of attire, posture and context of the subject portrayed.

2. The RFA's official web-site is under the control of a web-master approved by the RFA who is responsible for its content, including the photographs used. The web-site is accessible to any surfer of the Internet, but only contains links to and from schools and clubs which play Fives or other sports. The web-site provides speedy reports and photographs of Fives events to those with an interest in them and is likely to be more accessible to participating child players than the official publications of the RFA, as there are few children who are individual members of the RFA and the official printed publications only appear at lengthy intervals.

As such, photographs may be published on the RFA web-site at the discretion of the web-master in a manner which does not identify individual children, their club/school and their ages (by virtue of the competitions in which they participate). The photographs used should be relevant to the event covered and should not be inappropriate in terms of attire, posture and context of the subject portrayed. However, if valid objection to the inclusion of a specific photograph of an identified child is made to the site's web-manager, he shall remove the photograph or edit the caption to depersonalise it.

3. The official printed publications of the RFA may subsequently be made available on the RFA's official web-site. However, if valid objection to the inclusion of a specific photograph of an identified child is made to the site's web-master, he shall take appropriate action which may involve removing or obscuring the photograph or editing its caption to depersonalise it.

4. The RFA may occasionally use photographs of children for coaching purposes, to advertise the sport to other children and for general promotional purposes. This may be done internally within the RFA and its membership, or

externally through other sporting bodies or the media generally. In such cases, it will usually be unnecessary to identify individual children and children should not normally be individually identified without specific consent being obtained from the child (if 16 or over) or a responsible adult (if the child is under 16).

5. The RFA encourages the organisers of Fives tournaments and matches to exercise any necessary control of photography at such events.

6. The RFA encourages those taking photographs at Fives tournaments and matches to do so responsibly and to respect any objections or conditions made by the potential subjects.

7. Whilst noting the difficulty of seeking individual and specific consent to the taking and publication of photographs of Fives players, the RFA encourages a responsible approach by the photographers concerned. The RFA will not publish a photograph where it is aware of valid concerns regarding it and where reasonably practicable to do so, will cease to continue to publish such a photograph if such concerns are drawn to its attention.

8. This policy was adopted by the Board of the RFA at its meeting on 12 December 2007 and is reviewed periodically to ensure its continued applicability.

**Last reviewed January 2018**